

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

251505Z Sep 00

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ACTION IO-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AF-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00
	SRPP-00	DS-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01
	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02
	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/008W			

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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7181
INFO NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 005362

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/25/10

TAGS: [PREL](#) [OIIP](#) [US](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: MFA INQUIRES ABOUT AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON
BULAWAYO'S CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR TOM MCDONALD FOR REASONS 1.5
B/D.

1. (C) AMBASSADOR MCDONALD MET FOR HALF AN HOUR WITH
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE
AND THE AMERICAS JONATHAN WUTAWUNASHE AT THE LATTER'S
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REQUEST SEPTEMBER 25. WUTAWUNASHE GOT TO THE POINT
QUICKLY, ASKING WHETHER "THE DAILY NEWS" HAD STATED
CORRECTLY THE OBJECT OF THE AMBASSADOR'S VISIT TO PIUS
NCUBE, THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF BULAWAYO, ON
SEPTEMBER 21. THE ARTICLE STATED THAT "MCDONALD'S VISIT
WAS TO LOBBY NCUBE TO USE HIS INFLUENCE TO PERSUADE THE
REGION TO ACCEPT THE BILL (ZIMBABWE DEMOCRACY ACT)."

2. (C) AMBASSADOR MCDONALD RESPONDED THAT THE NEWSPAPER
ARTICLE'S ACCOUNT WAS "NOT CORRECT, AND THAT THE
REPORTER WAS UNPROFESSIONAL." THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT
HE HAD MET WITH THE ARCHBISHOP, BUT THE SUBJECT OF THE
ZIMBABWE DEMOCRACY ACT WAS NOT RAISED. HOWEVER, HE
WOULD NOT DIVULGE WHAT WAS THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PRIVATE
CONVERSATION. THE AMBASSADOR WENT ON TO STATE THAT THE
GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE SHOULD NOT LET ITSELF BE SEIZED
BY ITS OWN PARANOIA, BUT RATHER TAKE TO HEART THE BILL'S
SERIOUS MESSAGE.

3. (C) COMMENT: "THE DAILY NEWS" FABRICATED ARTICLE
THAT APPEARED ON SEPTEMBER 25, WAS CUT FROM WHOLE CLOTH.
THE REPORTER RECEIVED NO INFORMATION EITHER FROM
OURSELVES OR THE ARCHBISHOP. IF SOMEONE IN THE
ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE TIPPED OFF THE PRESS TO THE
AMBASSADOR'S CALL IN ORDER TO HELP THE ARCHBISHOP, WHO
HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF DEATH THREATS, HE OR SHE DID
THE WRONG THING. THE FACT THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS
QUESTIONED ABOUT THIS ARTICLE SHOWS THAT THE ZIMBABWE
GOVERNMENT'S PARANOIA IS IN OVERDRIVE. WE DO NOT INTEND
TO PUBLICIZE THIS MATTER FURTHER, BUT WILL REGISTER OUR
UNHAPPINESS ABOUT THE STORY WITH THE NEWSPAPER'S
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MANAGING EDITOR. END COMMENT.

MCDONALD

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